

PARENTAL/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT – DISTRICT

1: Jointly Developed Expectations and Objectives

(Describe/List the District expectations and objectives for parent and family engagement. Describe/List how parents will be involved in the development of the district parent and family engagement policy. Describe/List how parents will be involved in the development and review of the School Improvement/Title I Schoolwide/Title I Targeted Assistance Plan and, if applicable, the Comprehensive Support and Improvement and the Targeted Support and Improvement plans. Describe/List how the District will submit to the State comments from parents who deem the LEA Plan unsatisfactory.)

Does the District Parent and Family Engagement Plan describe how the district will accomplish each of the required components?

The Watson Chapel School District understands the importance of involving parents and the community as a whole in promoting higher student achievement and general good will between the district and those it serves. Therefore, the district shall strive to develop and maintain the capacity for meaningful and productive parental and community involvement that will result in partnerships that are mutually beneficial to the school, students, parents, and the community. The District expectations and objectives for parent and family engagement are:

Objective: Serves as the liaison between school and parents, relaying the needs of one to the other; educates teachers and staff on how to communicate and work effectively with parents as equal partners; advises and trains parents on how to address issues with the leadership staff in school meetings; serves as a school-based intermediary contact for concerns and comments made by parents and community members; provides referrals to community-based services for families; expands opportunities for continued learning, voluntary community service and civic participation; develops community collaborations; promotes sharing of power with parents as decisionmakers; helps parents understand the educational system so they can become better advocates for their children's education; maintains parent resource center.

- **Parent Involvement Resources:** Provides workshops, classes, and activities for parents at their local school on a regular basis; recruits volunteers from the community to host various workshops and classes to speak directly with parents; provides materials such as event calendars, brochures, educational resources and DVDs; creates opportunities for parents who have limited English proficiency, a disability or are underrepresented because of social economics or racial barriers to participate in education initiatives and enrichment workshops; provides technical assistance relating to parental involvement as needed locally or at the district level.
- **Program Evaluation:** Conducts surveys to assess the needs of parents at their local school; reviews annual reports to evaluate the effectiveness of their parent involvement programs; develops, analyzes, and distributes the results of parent surveys to the school's leadership team and/or Title I Director if mandated.
- **Compliance:** Keeps excellent records of all parent involvement activities, reports, surveys, funding, annual program evaluations, and communications to parents; ensures compliance of the school or district's parent involvement program with all state and federal guidelines.
- **Program Coordination and Collaboration:** Coordinates and implements research based strategies for their local school parent involvement program to engage parents in improving student achievement; collaborates with local, regional, and state organizations to create

opportunities to help families understand school academic standards, assessments and report cards; collaborates with parents, teachers, and the school's leadership team to develop a family-friendly school climate; collaborates with other parent engagement professionals such as parent mentors and early education school transition coaches or other designees; promotes parents as partners by involving them in the decision-making process regarding parental involvement activities and school improvement.

- Professional Development: Takes part in opportunities for professional development at the local, regional, and/or state level with proper authorization; attends all local meetings and trainings for Parent Involvement Coordinators; shares ideas and experiences with school or district staff, leadership team, and/or other parent professionals.

This committee will meet annually to review the Parental Involvement Plan. The Parent Advisory Council will meet in May to review the effectiveness of the District Parent Involvement Policy and revise the District Parent Involvement Policy for the upcoming school year. The council will ensure that a parent-friendly summary of the plan is online and in the student handbook. The district parental coordinator will coordinate the meeting. The District Parent Involvement Policy will be placed on the Watson Chapel School District homepage for parents and shared with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in Indistar by August 1.

Each school will establish a Parent Facilitator to oversee Parental Involvement implementation. A survey (annual review) of the effectiveness of the parental involvement policy will be utilized to get feedback. The Parental Involvement Survey from the previous year will be analyzed to better meet the needs of the Parents. In addition, a perception survey will be sent to all parents to determine perceptions of each school's effectiveness. Parents that find the plan unsatisfactory will be able to share their reasons on the survey and that information will be shared with DESE. The plan will be included into the schoolwide plan.

Watson Chapel School District will reserve a minimum of 1% of the district's Title I, Part A allocation for parental involvement. Schools will involve parents in annual meetings led by the school's parent involvement facilitator to review the school parent involvement plan.

2: Building Staff Capacity through Training and Technical Assistance

(Describe/List how the district will provide support and technical assistance to all its Title I schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement practices, inclusive of school parent and family engagement policies/plans, school-parent compacts, and all Title I parent and family engagement requirements. Describe/List activities such as workshops, conferences, trainings, webinars, and online resources that will be used with school staff to build their capacity to work with parents as equal partners. Include information about how the district and/or schools will provide information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities to parents in a format, to the extent practicable, and in a language that parents can understand.)

Does the District Parent and Family Engagement Plan describe how the district will accomplish each of the required components?

The Watson Chapel School District provides support and technical assistance to all its schools through a district level parent and family engagement facilitator. Additionally, there is a parent and family engagement facilitator on each campus. The district level facilitator is Kerri McNeal and the building level facilitators are: Edgewood Elementary – Alexia Williams, Coleman Elementary – Angela Billingsley, Watson Chapel Jr. High School - Susan Moser, and Watson Chapel High School – Lasonya

Martin. The district level facilitator communicates regularly with the school coordinators to observe practices and working with the principals to ensure training is required. This training will enhance the awareness of skills of teachers, pupil service personnel, principals, and staff reaching out to communicating with and working with parents as equal partners.

To ensure required trainings are provided, sign-in sheets are collected to document attendance at the trainings. In addition, the district will monitor each Title I, Part A School to ensure that each school performs the following tasks:

- provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support to schools in based on the Needs Assessment data, jointly-developing school parent and family engagement plans, implementing effective parent and family involvement activities, jointly-developing school-parent compacts
- Ensure professional development to train teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in: the value and utility of contributions of parents, how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, how to implement and coordinate parent programs, how to build ties between parents and the school
- Require minimum professional development hours for teachers and administrators
- Provide training at least annually for any volunteer.
- The school parent facilitator will assist with the development of the school's parental involvement policy. The school parent facilitator will provide an electronic copy of the school's parent involvement policy to the district Parent Coordinator. Each school's plan will be placed on Watson Chapel School District webpage and will be distributed at school parent involvement meetings.
- School Parent Facilitators will offer flexible meeting times.
- Each school's parent facilitator and principal will provide information to parents about the school's program, include parent information guide.
- Each school's parent facilitator and principal will develop and use the School-Parent Compact.
- Provide training for parents in working with their child to improve academic achievement
- Encourage parents to visit/volunteer at school by assisting staff in developing volunteer opportunities as well as training staff to encourage and build volunteer efforts.
- Encourage parent participation through innovative scheduling of activities through strategies such as holding meetings at a variety of times, such as morning and evening, in order to maximize the opportunities for parents to participate in school-related activities.
- The school's parent facilitator will provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve academic achievement.
- The district Parent Facilitator will attend conferences and outside trainings to provide meaningful technical assistance. Trainings will be conducted to train Administrators in every building in dealing with better ways of Communicating with Parents.
 - Copies of the Parent and Family Engagement Plan will be provided to families, in their home language who may not have access to the plan from the school's website. Also the plan summary is included with the student forms book at the beginning of each school year or given with the new student enrollment packet. Signed copies of the receipt of the forms book are kept on file at each school.

- LEA will obtain signatures from each parent acknowledging receipt of the (district's) parent and family engagement plan at the fall Parent/Teacher conferences

3: Building Parent Capacity

(Describe/List activities, such as workshops, conferences, classes, online resources, and any equipment or other materials that may be necessary to support parents in helping their student's academic success. If applicable, describe how each discretionary item your district and parents chose will be implemented.)

Does the District Parent and Family Engagement Plan describe how the district will accomplish each of the required components?

Each school has a current Parent and Family Engagement plan which is monitored by the district facilitator, Kerri McNeal. The plan is disseminated at the annual Title I meeting held each year. Parents who are not in attendance will be given instructions on how to download the plan from the district website. Additionally, a parent-friendly summary of the plan will be available on the website and available to parents in the student handbook. In order to meet the parents' various schedules, each school varies the days and times of their meetings to make sure everyone is available to attend. These meetings are held in order to inform and encourage parents to visit and volunteer at the school and to provide information to the parents.

The district will provide assistance and support to all Title I schools to ensure family engagement requirements are being satisfied and family engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. All Title I schools will receive notifications and resources from the district to help them improve and strengthen family engagement. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the district will hold monthly meetings and training with its Title I schools' principals and school Family Engagement Facilitators to review family engagement plans and activities.

Parents are encouraged to participate in the school's local parent organization which is involved with fundraising activities, Literacy Nights, Fine Arts Night, etc. Parents have the opportunity to participate in local field trips, activities during the school day, etc. Parent resources are located at each school in the parent centers and additional information is available in the school libraries. Libraries are also open on a schedule after hours to work with parents and students to improve reading levels and support student literacy growth. During the district's annual report to the public, the following components will be presented and addressed:

- Federal Funding
- State Funding
- Accreditation Status
- Enrollment Trends
- Parent and Family Engagement Policies
- Professional Development
- Standardized Testing Information
- Programs Offered
- School and District Goals
- Child Nutrition Regulations

In addition, each school will hold a meeting annually to discuss with parents the school's plan for Title I. This meeting will include information such as:

- Parent's Right to Know

- School Performance
- Compliant Procedures
- School/Parent Compacts
- Parent and Family Engagement Plans
- Rights for Disabled Parents
- School Improvement Plans
- School Curriculum
- Assessment Data
- School Safety Data

Watson Chapel would like to involve families by creating: (a) parent centers, (b) home visitor programs, and (c) action research teams which examine strategies for involving parents. These three strategies can help schools create home-school collaboration. The parent centers offer resources to assist parents on various topics. The district is also providing technology training for parents in case we have to pivot to virtual again.

The district will provide parent/student information hubs- tutorial videos for virtual learning, how to view students' grades, how to utilize google documents and other needed tutorial.

The district partners with the local educational Cooperative to provide parent engagement training.

4: Reservation and Evaluation

(Describe/List how the district will share with parents and family members the budget for parent and family engagement activities and programs and how parents and family members will be involved in providing input into how the funds are used. If the district does not receive a Title I, Part A allocation greater than \$500,000, then the district is not required to include a description of its Reservation of Funds. If a reservation is required, then a minimum of 90% of that 1% must go to the schools, with priority given to high-need schools. Describe/List actions for how the annual evaluation will be conducted, identifying who will be responsible for conducting it, and explaining what role parents and family members will play.)

Does the District Parent and Family Engagement Plan describe how the district will accomplish each of the required components?

The district will reserve 1 percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this policy and as described in Section 1116 of the ESSA. Furthermore, the district will distribute 90 percent of the amount reserved to Title I schools to support their local-level family engagement programs and activities.

The district will provide clear guidance and communication to assist each Title I school in developing an adequate family engagement budget that addresses their needs assessment and parent recommendations. Parents input is sought to allocate those funds set aside for Parent and Family Engagement activities such as Math Nights, Literacy Nights, Transition Nights, and other events. All events are aligned with the Parent and Family Engagement policy and are evaluated annually for their effectiveness and decisions are made at that time on the continuation of such programs and events. The district will ensure that the plan will be reviewed and updated annually by August 1.

5: Coordination

(Describe/List how the district will coordinate with other organizations, businesses, and community partners to provide additional supports and resources to families such as public preschool programs

or organizations to help students transition to elementary, middle, high, and postsecondary schools or careers.)

Does the District Parent and Family Engagement Plan describe how the district will accomplish each of the required components?

Watson Chapel School District collaborates with many agencies in order to create learning opportunities for families. There are many community partnerships within the city of Pine Bluff.

Through collaboration with the Arkansas River Educational Cooperative, we have provided classrooms within our elementary school for children enrolled in preschool. WCSD also partners with Living Vessels Organization which provides donations for our students. Gould Youth Ministries provided meals for our students and community during the summer. Delta Network Food Bank supports our backpack program for students this school year. The Jefferson County Public Library is another active community partner. The WCSD children's librarian provides monthly calendars of library events, which are provided to all students and their families. These community partners participate in school planning, volunteer in classrooms, contribute time and money to school projects/activities and share resources.